

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 826 without my signature.

This bill is unnecessary because it proposes to create a new statewide program through the State Department of Education that duplicates efforts that are already taking place in California. For example, the Department of Health Services already implements *California 5 a Day – For Better Health Campaign* and the *California Nutrition Network for Health Active Families* to promote increased consumption of fruits and vegetables. Additionally, the Department of Food and Agriculture oversees the *Buy California Initiative*, which promotes California agriculture.

Instead of creating another duplicative program with no identifiable funding source, I would rather see any additional resources that might be available go directly toward providing fresh fruits and vegetables to schools. This is why I recently signed into law SB 281 which provides healthy alternatives through existing meal programs and makes purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables a priority.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger